

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Fire Protection and Administration at UNC Charlotte

UNC Charlotte requests authorization to establish a Master of Fire Protection and Administration degree program (CIP 43.0299).

Program Description

The proposed program will consist of a common core and concentrations in Fire Protection and Fire Administration. The fire protection concentration prepares fire protection professionals to use modern fire protection methodologies, techniques and tools for fire protection design, fire investigation, industrial fire safety, key infrastructure security, safety assessment, and other fire safety matters. The administration curriculum prepares those who are engaged in occupations in the fire, emergency services, and safety fields to effectively manage the administrative decision-making requirements of both public and private entities.

UNC Tomorrow Relevance

The proposed program represents important aspects of the UNC Tomorrow Final Report sections 4.4, Our Communities and Their Economic Transformation, 4.5 Our Health, 4.6 Our Environment, and 4.7 Our University's Outreach and Engagement.

Highlights from UNC-GA Data Template

Employment in the fire fighting occupations is expected to grow by 12 percent during this decade. A trend is for more volunteer units to be transformed into professional organizations. Greater urbanization is resulting in a need for more fire protection professionals. This would be the only degree of its kind in North Carolina. In the past three years UNCC has established four baccalaureate, three master's, and one doctoral program and has discontinued one baccalaureate and six masters programs.

Outcome of Consultation with Disciplinary Panel

Topics addressed during the videoconference included availability of resources, employer interest in the program, and the current UNCC baccalaureate program that is offered via distance education. The city of Charlotte is very supportive of the proposed program, making its training facilities and equipment available to the program. UNCC has substantial resources to support the program, including sophisticated equipment and instruments that are generally unique for a university campus. Among other things, the program will help prepare faculty to teach in the 11 community college programs in fire safety and protection.

Student Demand

The program projects full enrollment of the program in its fourth year will be 15 -20 students. Surveys by UNCC have yielded hundreds of responses indicating student interest in the program.

Opportunities for Graduates of the Program

Employers of fire protection professionals have difficulty recruiting enough qualified fire protection professionals. The needs in both the private and public sectors of NC and the Southeast provide unique opportunities for the program, including outreach and collaboration with local, state, and regional fire and emergency services organizations. The Society of Fire Protection Engineers has documented the shortage of professionals in the western and southern US where there are no fire protection and administration programs.

Resource Implications

Resource needs: Primary resource needs will be for three new faculty positions over the next four years to support growth of the program.

Resources allocated: In recent years UNCC has purchased a variety of state-of-the-art technology to support such a program, and the city of Charlotte has offered its fire training facilities for use by the program. The department has a well-qualified pool of adjunct faculty and faculty associates who will take on some of the undergraduate program delivery.

Estimated cost to the State: Based on the University funding formula, when the program reaches full enrollment, UNCC would receive additional State appropriations of approximately \$297,766 if fully funded by the General Assembly.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve UNC Charlotte's request to establish a Master of Fire Protection and Administration degree program (CIP 43.0299) subject to the availability of funding.

General Information Template for Academic Program Review

Degree Area and Level:

Master of Fire Protection and Administration at UNC Charlotte (CIP 43.0299)

Addressing UNC Tomorrow:

This proposed program would address several Recommendations within the UNC Tomorrow Report including the components to enhance Our Communities and Their Economic Transformation (Recommendation 4.4), and Our University's Outreach and Engagement (Recommendation 4.7).

Role of Program in Relation to State and Regional Needs:

According to this proposal, "This will be the first graduate degree of this type in the state and region; as such, it is expected to draw students from across the southeastern United States. Many practicing fire protection professionals have no easily accessible advanced degree opportunities because of the lack of a program in this region of the country. It is expected that the UNC Charlotte MFPA degree recipients will be recruited by the major businesses and industries from across North Carolina and all areas of the United States."

US Labor Department Analysis:

- *Summary* – Employment of workers in fire fighting occupations is expected to grow by 12 percent over the 2006-2016 decade, which is as fast as the average for all occupations. Most job growth will stem from volunteer fire fighting positions being converted to paid positions. In recent years, it has become more difficult for volunteer fire departments to recruit and retain volunteers. This may be the result of the considerable amount of training and time commitment required. Furthermore, a trend towards more people living in and around cities has increased the demand for fire fighters. When areas develop and become more densely populated, emergencies and fires affect more buildings and more people and therefore require more fire fighters.

Availability of Program Statewide (Enrollment and Degrees Awarded in Last 3 Years):

- *Public universities* – Not available.
- *Private universities* – Not available.

Available or not from Academic Common Market:

Not available.

UNC Charlotte Campus enrollment and degrees awarded in similar programs at the Masters level:
(Based on two CIP digits – 43 CIP is the summary group for Protective Services under which Fire Protection and Administration is a program.)

Enrollment			Academic Year						
			Fall 06	Spr 07	Fall 07	Spr 08	Fall 08	Spr 09	Fall 09
UNCC	Criminal Justice/Safety Studies	MS	34	30	29	24	24	23	16

Number of Degrees Awarded			Academic Year		
			2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
UNCC	Criminal Justice/Safety Studies	MS	14	11	11

APPENDIX Q

Campus Average of enrollment and degrees awarded in this degree area at the Masters level:
(Based on two CIP digits – 43 CIP is the summary group for Protective Services is a program under which Fire Protection and Administration is a program - over the last 3 Academic Years, Fall 2006-Fall 2009.)

Campus Average			
	Number of Active Programs	Enrollment per Semester	Degrees Awarded per Year
ASU	1	25	10
ECU	1	58	14
FSU	1	23	2
NCCU	1	48	9
UNCC	1	26	12
Campus Average:		36	9

UNC Charlotte Campus Degree Programs added in the past three years:

- *Bachelor*
 - BA Special Education, General Curriculum (03/20/2009)
 - BS Systems Engineering (09/07/2007)
 - BS Respiratory Therapy (05/11/2007)
 - BS Public Health (03/16/2007)
- *Master*
 - MUD Urban Design (06/13/2008)
 - MA Latin American Studies (02/09/2007)
 - MS Bioinformatics (05/11/2007)
- *Doctoral*
 - PhD Nanoscale Science (01/12/2007)

UNC Charlotte Campus Degree Programs discontinued in past three years:

- *Bachelor*
 - BA Special Education (03/20/2009)
- *Master*
 - MEd Special Education, Cross-Categorical Disabilities (03/20/2009)
 - MEd Special Education, behavioral-Emotional Handicaps (03/20/2009)
 - MEd Special Education, Mental Handicaps (03/20/2009)
 - MEd Special Education, Learning Disabilities (03/20/2009)
 - MEd Special Education, Severe and Profound Handicaps (03/20/2009)
 - MA Art Administration (03/20/2009)
- *Doctoral*
 - N/A